

and secured critical votes on multiple Indian issues. Dr. Parikh has worked closely with members of both houses of Congress and the Administration to develop a close, strategic relationship between the United States and India. Under his guidance, the Friends of India Caucus was created in the Senate. Dr. Parikh was also actively involved in the U.S.-India Civilian Nuclear Agreement. He currently serves as founding board member and Vice Chairman of the Indian American Republican Council, President of the Indian American Forum for Political Education and the board of the Federation of Indian Associations.

As a community activist, Dr. Parikh has donated to charitable organizations in both the United States and India. Most notably, he accompanied former President Bill Clinton to Gujarat in 2001 following the devastating earthquake and in 2004 launched a humanitarian program to help tsunami victims. Dr. Parikh has worked to establish trauma centers in India and supports the One Teacher School in tribal regions. Moreover, Dr. Parikh has donated considerably to the Indian Independence Day Parade, the American India Foundation, Share and Care, and the Nargis Dutt Foundation. Dr. Parikh is one of the largest benefactors of both the Vraj Temple and the Vaishnavite Temple.

Madam Speaker, please join me in leading this body in acknowledgement of the extraordinary contributions of Dr. Sudhir Parikh. He is a greatly valued citizen of the state of New Jersey, and I am honored to recognize him today.

#### RECOGNIZING THE FORSAN LADY BUFFS' SOFTBALL 2009 AND 2010 STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

#### HON. RANDY NEUGEBAUER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 27, 2010*

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Madam Speaker, I proudly congratulate the Lady Buffs softball team of Forsan High School in Forsan, Texas for winning the 2009 and 2010 Texas 1A State Softball Championships.

In their second appearance in the state tournament, the Lady Buffs defended their softball state championship. The Forsan Lady Buffs finished their 2009–2010 season with a 26–4 record, with none of their four losses coming against Class 1A opponents. The impressive record demonstrates the team's strength and ability to work together to achieve success.

Coached by Shanna Roberts, this year's Forsan Lady Buffs successfully proved that their 2009 State Championship was not a fluke, as critics claimed. The team had a strong postseason, outscoring their opponents by 41 runs, 50–9. In the 2010 state championship game, Amanda Longorio pitched a one-hit shutout, leading the Lady Buffs to a 5–0 win over Blue Ridge; this earned her the distinction as the game's Most Valuable Player.

I applaud the Lady Buffs' hard work and tradition of success. With great support from the community, the team proved itself as the best 1A softball team in Texas two years running. The Lady Buffs exemplify the principles of competitive spirit and success both on and off the field, and I congratulate them on their well-deserved state championships.

#### HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF MR. STEVEN MORRISON

#### HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 27, 2010*

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the career and achievements of Mr. Steven Morrison, Executive Director of the Jewish Federation of Madison, as he retires from his esteemed position after 27 years of service.

From an early age, Steve displayed a passion for service in the Jewish community. Shortly after joining the B'nai B'rith Youth Organization in his hometown of Elgin, Illinois in 1959, he was elected AZA Grand Aleph Godol—International President. This position was only the beginning of a long career dedicated to improving the world and giving back to his community.

When Steve arrived in Madison in 1984, he immediately began working to strengthen Madison's Jewish community and weave it into the larger fabric of this great city. Under his leadership, Camp Shalom grew from a program serving 150 youngsters to one which now serves almost a thousand children of diverse racial, ethnic, and social backgrounds and abilities every summer. Steve helped enrollment in the Hilde L. Mosse Gan HaYeled Preschool and Midrasha Hebrew High School reach record levels. He also assisted in the development of the recreational facilities and programs offered at the Goodman Campus, which are now enjoyed by families throughout the region. Furthermore, as Executive Director of Madison's Jewish Social Services, Steve expanded the agency's outreach to immigrants and refugees in need of support as they adapted to a new home and way of life.

Steve's commitment to the larger Madison community is rooted in the Judaic teachings of education and justice. With humor, tact, keen intellect, compassion, and chutzpah, he brings people to the table and helps guide them toward mutual understanding and growth. Steve is a fierce defender of minority rights, whether speaking against hate crimes or in support of same-sex marriage. As Chair of the Madison Public Schools Human Relations Council for more than two decades, Steve helped teachers and administrators better understand the needs of students who come from a variety of backgrounds. Among the countless awards and honors that Steve received over the years are the Mandelkorn Distinguished Service Award given by the Association of Jewish Community Organization Professionals and Ally of the Year given by OutReach, Madison's LGBT Community Center.

Tikkun olam, or the obligation to repair the world, is a basic tenet of Judaism. Broadly, it is interpreted to suggest that we all have a role to play in giving back and enhancing the world in which we live. There is nobody, in my mind, who personifies this better than Steve. I have no doubt that the impact of his work will continue to benefit individuals in communities here in Wisconsin, across the United States, and far beyond the borders of our great nation. May his unwavering dedication, vision, and lifelong commitment to the highest ethical standards continue to serve as an inspiration for us. I join both the Jewish and greater Madison communities in honoring Mr. Steven

Morrison's achievements and thanking him for his lifetime of service.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 27, 2010*

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I regret that I was unavoidably absent yesterday afternoon, July 26, on very urgent business. Had I been present for the three votes which occurred yesterday evening, I would have voted "aye" on H.R. 1320, rollcall vote No. 467; I would have voted "aye" on H. Res. 1504, rollcall vote No. 468; and I would have voted "aye" on H.R. 3101, rollcall vote No. 469.

#### OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

#### HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 27, 2010*

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Madam Speaker, today our national debt is \$13,252,030,092,034.06.

On January 6th, 2009, the start of the 111th Congress, the national debt was \$10,638,425,746,293.80.

This means the national debt has increased by \$2,613,604,345,740.26 so far this Congress.

This debt and its interest payments we are passing to our children and all future Americans.

#### THE 29TH CELEBRATION OF LA PRESENCIA PUERTORRIQUEÑA

#### HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKEY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 27, 2010*

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Madam Speaker, I am honored to stand here before you today to commemorate La Presencia Puertorriqueña, or the Puerto Rican Presence, a celebration in honor of Puerto Rican heritage. On July 29, 2010, the patrons of Northwest Indiana will come together in East Chicago to celebrate, learn, and understand one another's differences through festivities of the diverse ethnic heritage. Through the variety of Puerto Rican showcases and spotlights, people will learn the history, heritage, culture, and much more about the commonwealth.

La Presencia Puertorriqueña, which embarks on its 29th celebration, is done in coordination each year with a significant event: Puerto Rico's unification to the United States through a commonwealth, which occurred on July 25, 1952. Each year, as over 5,000 people flock to line the streets of East Chicago, the initiation of Puerto Rico as a part of the United States is celebrated. With this celebration, the entire history and culture of Puerto Rico is presented to the people of Northwest Indiana for a memorable experience.